

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 216807

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: PRODUCTION OF POLITICO-MILITARY ASSESSMENTS

REFS: A. USNATO 6959, DTG 171726Z JUL 78; B. STATE 164969,
DTG 282333Z JUN 78; C. STATE 177606, DTG 132237Z JUL 78

1. WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE THIRD ALTERNATIVE PUT
FORWARD IN PO/78/38, I.E., CREATION OF AN INFORMAL
BRIEFING GROUP.
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2. WE SEE THIS AS THE MOST FLEXIBLE OF THE POSSIBLE
SOLUTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION. IT IS ALSO RESPONSIVE TO
THE NEED NOT TO SUBMERGE OR DO AWAY WITH EITHER THE
POLITICAL OR THE MILITARY ASSESSMENTS.

3. MOREOVER, WE WOULD NOT WISH TO SEE ANY ONE COMMITTEE

BELOW THE NAC/DPC LEVEL BECOME A "LITTLE NAC," I.E.,
ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR ASSESSING ALL ASPECTS OF AN
EMERGENCY OR ACTUAL CRISIS, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE
OBJECT OF THE ASSESSMENT, AS LAID OUT IN PARA 3 OF PO/78/38
WOULD BE "NOT ONLY TO ENSURE THAT THE VITAL FACTS WERE
IDENTIFIED, AND THAT CONSULTATION TOOK PLACE ON A COMMON
BASIS, BUT ALSO TO:

- A. ACHIEVE A COMMON BASIS FOR ACTION
- B. PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES
- C. ENSURE THAT A PROPER BALANCE IS MAINTAINED BETWEEN
CIVIL AND MILITARY STEPS IN THE PREPAREDNESS PROCESS."

4. WE SUGGEST THAT THE WORKING GROUP TAKE UP AS ITS
FIRST TASK A DELINEATION OF THE EXPECTED CONTENT AND
COVERAGE OF AN OVERALL ASSESSMENT, TO INCLUDE AT LEAST
OUTLINE CONTENT HEADINGS, AS A BASIS FOR FURTHER WORK IN
RECOMMENDING HOW THE OVERALL ASSESSMENT SHOULD BE OR
MIGHT BE PRODUCED. IN OUR VIEW AN OVERALL ASSESSMENT
WOULD BE ONE WHICH PRESENTED THE MAIN MILITARY, POLITICAL,
AND CIVIL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ASPECTS OF THE DEVELOPING
SITUATION, BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE ALLIANCE. IT IS
NOT CLEAR TO US THAT THE ASSESSMENT SHOULD PUT FORWARD
COURSES OF ACTION, EITHER ALTERNATIVE OR AGREED UNLESS
SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED BY THE COUNCIL. WE WOULD EXPECT
COURSES OF ACTION TO BE IDENTIFIED IN NAC/DPC DISCUSSION,
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ON THE BASIS OF CAPABILITIES IDENTIFIED IN THE ASSESSMENT.

CHRISTOPHER

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